



**HUMANE  
RESCUE  
ALLIANCE**  
*Animals. People. Community.*

March 2, 2023

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for SB 495 Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Licensing and Regulation**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Rescue Alliance and our thousands of supporters in Maryland, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 495, legislation to implement protections for animals in laboratories and pushing for the use of available alternative methods.

The Humane Rescue Alliance honors more than 150 years of commitment to protecting animals, supporting families, and advocating for positive change to create a world where all animals can thrive. We are the largest animal services provider in the Mid-Atlantic region, touching the lives of over 100,000 animals annually through adoption, community veterinary care and other support services, and lost pet reunification. Last year, we helped over 4,000 Maryland families find their new animal companions.

There is no discernable difference between the dogs and cats we care for in our sheltering facilities and the ones used in laboratories for research. Until the day that humane methods have fully replaced animals in scientific research, we have an obligation to reduce the number of animals used in experiments and ease the suffering of those in laboratories. SB 495 is a comprehensive bill that works to do this by implementing protections for animals in laboratories and pushing for the use of available alternative methods by:

- Mandating that laboratories use non-animal methods whenever possible.
- Prohibiting the use of dogs or cats to assess the safety of products such as pesticides and food additives when not required by federal law.
- Banning cruel laboratory practices such as devocalizing dogs, obtaining dogs and cats from animal shelters, and conducting euthanasia in an inhumane manner.
- Requiring animal laboratories to obtain a state license and report on how the animals at their facilities are used.
- Requiring that USDA-registered laboratories be inspected regularly to ensure that animals are being properly cared for.
- Requiring laboratories that use animals in biomedical research experiments to provide a justification for why animals must be used.

These provisions codify the value of the Three Rs (3Rs) that the research community espouses when using animals in experiments: (1) Replacing animals with non-animal methods; (2) Reducing the number of animals used; and (3) Refining methods to minimize animal suffering.

SB 495 represents an acknowledgment of our responsibility to animals used in research and supports non-animal research methods that can often more closely mimic how the human body responds to drugs and treatments, providing countless possibilities to improve our understanding and treatment of human conditions humanely.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report for SB 495.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Emily Hovermale  
Director of Government Affairs